

## Richmond Police Options

Revised Comparison dated February 13, 2019

From the Board of Selectmen, correcting errors in the January 10, 2019 handout and clarifying categories of hours.

Option 1: County Sheriff for 30 police duty hours/ week (includes all necessary administrative services at no additional charge)

Option 1A: County Sheriff for 40 police duty hours/ week (includes all necessary administrative services at no additional charge)

Option 2: RPD with FT officer plus PT officers and personnel, 51 police duty hours/week and 33 administrative hours/week

**In addition to police duty for the specified police duty hours, all options include customary ancillary police services such as criminal investigations, prosecution and administrative services – at no additional cost and without reduction of police duty hours.**

Notes:

	Opt 1	Opt 1A	Opt 2
Cost	\$71,760	\$95,680	\$177,230
Police Duty Hours/Week	30	40	51
Admin Hours/Week	As needed no charge	As needed no charge	33 (18 PT AdminAsst + 15 PT OinC)
Cost/Police Duty hour	\$46	\$46	\$66.82

Annual police duty hours: Opt 1=1,520...Opt 1A=2,080.....Opt 2=2,652

Full time officer at \$41,600 annual salary costs the town \$64,900.

Cost for Opt 2 includes \$159,230 2019 Operating Budget and \$18,000 annual trust fund contributions for RPD vehicles and equipment.

## **OPTION #1/1A – Contract with Cheshire County Sheriff's Dept.**

Services to be provided: all inclusive – police duty for the specified hours per week, plus associated customary police services such as criminal investigations, prosecution and administrative services, at stated cost, at **no additional cost and without reduction of police duty hours.**

Cost: \$71,760 annually for 30 police duty hours per week  
\$95,680 annually for 40 police duty hours per week

### Pluses:

- Cost savings of \$105,470 for 30 police duty hours weekly (\$81,550 for 40 hour option) as compared to RPD option 2 (51 hours police duty hours and 33 admin hours) (all necessary administrative services included at no extra cost and without reduction of police duty hours in both options 1 and 1A)
- Certainty of police coverage for the hours contracted
- Experienced, certified staff familiar with Richmond
- No need for equipment (cruisers, uniforms, radios, vests, and guns), or replacements/repairs, no need for dedicated police building
- No need for capital reserves going forward
- No employee benefits costs, which can vary year-to-year
- Sullivan and Gilsum have used this method and are very satisfied with the service.

### Minus

- Police duty hours are fewer – 30 or 40 as compared to 51
- No ability to hire or fire personnel, although Sheriff's office will work with us if we have staffing or operations complaints or requests
- No dedicated PD administrative staff on duty in Richmond

**OPTION #2 – Keep Richmond Police Department with full-time officer and part-time services of Officer in Charge and other part-time personnel**

Services to be provided: all inclusive – police duty for 51 hours per week, plus associated customary police services such as criminal investigations, prosecution and administrative services at no additional cost.

Officer in Charge hours of 24 per week are allocated as 15 hours administrative and 9 hours police duty as per Lt. Wood's budget description.

Cost: \$159,230 (operating budget)  
+\$18,000 (capital reserve requests)  
\$177,230

Plus:

- More police duty hours/week (51 hours as compared to 30 hours, Opt 1, or 40 hours, Opt1A) if sufficient personnel can be hired and retained.
- Experienced, certified staff familiar with Richmond.
- Retain local authority and accountability.
- Local RPD building and on-site dedicated RPD PT administrative staff

Minus:

- High Cost: Exceeds 30 hour sheriff option by \$105,470. Exceeds 40 hour sheriff option by \$81,530 .
- Difficult to find and retain part-time or full-time police personnel at the salary we are offering, the example of Officer Prior going to Hancock at an additional \$12,000 salary and better benefits, and the inability to find part-time officers. Cost of personnel is likely to increase in order to retain officers. This is a state-wide problem and all local police departments are short staffed, looking to hire additional police.
- Must maintain/replace vehicles and equipment; dedicated building.

**2-10-19, Explanation of the following corrections/clarifications from the 1/10/19 handout at the Public Police Forum:**

The RPD option2 is revised to represent 51 police duty hours, not 40 police duty hours as was stated in the 1/10/19 Police Forum Handouts. This brings the cost per police duty hours in the RPD option down to \$66.82, instead of \$85.20, as stated in the 1/10/19 document.

The total of 51 police duty hours includes:

- One 40-hour full-time officer can be expected to average 36 police duty hours/week (calculated by deducting hours for training, vacation, and sickdays)
- Part-time officer(s) at 6 hours/week total, and
- Police duty hours of an Officer in Charge of 9 hours/week

The RPD Option is revised to note the 33 RPD Admin hours/week, comprised of;

- 18 hours from an Administrative Assistant, and
- 15 administrative hours from the Officer in Charge

The Sheriff Option 1 and 1A are revised to clearly state that all necessary administrative hours are included at no charge and without a reduction in police duty hours.

The revised calculations show the same substantive cost savings to the Town as were set forth in the 1/10/19 handout. The Selectmen recommend the Sheriff Option 1A, believing it to be in the best interests of the Town. An annual savings of \$100,000 can be roughly expected to save \$200 in taxes on a house that is assessed at \$200,000. Coverage in the amount of 30 police duty hours (plus all ancillary police services and all necessary administrative hours and services at no extra cost) to be provided by the Sheriff department is, in our judgment, adequate and proper for our Town. The number of hours can be revised upward or downward in future years based on our experience with this option in the early years.